



April 2025

In the midst of a time of global uncertainty, war and division, it was a deep joy to be at the Churches Together in England Forum a couple of weeks ago. The atmosphere was warm and celebratory as every church denomination you could imagine, gathered to explore how we can celebrate our diversity and live with difference.

Amidst conversations on AI, racial justice, mental health and war and conflict, the forum centered around the core of our faith: this year is the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea. Rev Dr Sue Durber painted a vivid picture of the 10 week long council- one that was convened to determine how to articulate the identity of Jesus Christ in a new political environment, where the dominant ideology was not Christian and the Church was moving from a minority group to the faith of the Roman Empire.

The challenge for us today, is of course not to re-invent the Nicene Creed, but to return to the central truth that we all hold on to - that Salvation is through Jesus Christ- and in this new political environment, where the role of the Church is changing around the globe, to discern how we can best articulate and communicate the good news of the God that we follow.

Bishop Mike Royal, ChurchWorks Commissioner and CTE President, challenged us to resist anything that threatens the gospel of Christ. He invites us to remember that we are all called to serve and to follow in Christ's footsteps of humility, mercy and love. In a world coloured by power and greed and violence, where the false gospels of Christian Nationalism or Humanism threaten to divide us, we have an opportunity to return to the central truth that unites us and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, the good news for the poor.

We're delighted that ChurchWorks consists of such a diversity of traditions and expressions of faith. Let us work to serve our God together.

You can watch the talks from CTE Forum 2025 [here](#).

Blessings,

Esther and the ChurchWorks team

Post Event Reflection

ChurchWork's Parliamentary Reception

On 18 March, Anna Dixon MP hosted a reception in Parliament on behalf of the ChurchWorks Commission, bringing together 130 people, including church leaders, representatives from Christian charities, and more than 30 parliamentarians. The event celebrated and showcased the invaluable role of churches in tackling some of the UK's most pressing social challenges, with the aim of fostering stronger collaboration between Church and Government going forward.

While connecting with one another and meeting their local MPs, guests heard from a range of individuals leading transformative church-led initiatives.



[Click here to read more](#)

Wellbeing

Introducing our Accelerate Wellbeing Workshops

We are loving working with the cohort of church-led wellbeing projects in our Accelerate Wellbeing cohort to help them scale and replicate their amazing work.

We have developed a series of workshops for the cohort by an amazing line-up of experts looking at *how churches can grow and scale their innovative work* and we've decided that they are just **too good not to share!**

So we'll be posting recordings of the workshops monthly on our [ChurchWorks Youtube channel](#) and sending them in our newsletters so that everyone in the ChurchWorks community can benefit from the wisdom.

Click below to watch the first one on how churches can engage with local Population Health and Health Inequalities by the fantastic Jane Cook (Inclusion Health specialist).



[Watch the Workshop Here](#)

Participate in our research with Historic England!

ChurchWorks is working with Historic England to research **the role of heritage on the wellbeing of individuals and communities accessing Warm Welcome Spaces located in historic church buildings.**



This research hopes to equip churches to articulate the value of their Warm Welcome Space and the importance of preserving and protecting their older building when approaching funders and local authorities.

If you are, or know of a Warm Welcome space we would love for you to participate in this research. We are surveying visitors to a breadth of Warm Welcome Spaces – whether churches or other types of space, historic or modern – to explore the effects of different Warm Welcome spaces on the wellbeing of individuals. It should take 10 minutes to complete and can be found [here](#)

This [briefing document](#) provides all the information you may need to facilitate this survey in your space, including the questions included and a QR code poster which you can display in your space so that visitors can access the survey on their own devices.

We look forward to seeing responses from visitors to your space. Thank you!

Policy and Consultation



New National Youth Strategy

The UK government is partnering with young people to shape a new National Youth Strategy. Aimed at creating more accessible opportunities and support for those aged 10–25, the strategy will be guided by a nationwide consultation, giving young people a direct voice in

policy-making. Through surveys, focus groups, and events like ‘Democracy Cafés,’ young people will share their thoughts on services and issues affecting them.

Until 16th April, [this survey](#) is open for young people to contribute their views on the future of the UK. Please share with young people in your communities.

[Click here to read more](#)

The Plan for Neighbourhoods:



prospectus

We wanted to draw your attention to a new funded scheme from the government. The Plan for Neighbourhoods aims to be 'a long-term strategy to fix the foundations of those places most left behind.'

This [funding prospectus](#) lays out how £1.5 billion of new funding will be spent across some of the most

deprived neighbourhoods in the country.

You can check if your neighbourhood will receive funding by looking at this [eligibility list](#).

The funding will involve setting up Neighbourhood Boards to deliver all sorts of community engagement and regeneration plans.

You could consider:

- Could I or someone from my church connect with the new Neighbourhood Board?
- Can I find reference to activities I'm already doing in the long list of possible things this prospectus might fund? (You could use the control+f function and search 'foodbank', 'warm bank', 'wellbeing', 'youth', etc).
- Does reading about these ambitions spark new ideas or sense of calling for you?

We Want to Hear From You!

ChurchWorks wants to hear from you! Whether you've attended an event, followed our work, or engaged with us in any way, your feedback helps us reflect on our work. Please take a moment to share your thoughts— thank you!

Share your experience with us



If you're subscribed to our newsletter, you are officially part of the ChurchWorks community!

If you're a local church this gives you access to:

- Monthly newsletters with jam packed content (like this one)
- Reflections and blogs from the ChurchWorks team

- Stories of impact from churches around the country
- Information about upcoming in-person and online events
- Updates and resources from our partner organisations

Did you know that being a subscriber also gives you access to a free 30 min consultation call with one of the ChurchWorks team?

Whether you want to hear more about one of our mission areas, find out how you can connect more with your Local Authority or share a story of impact, we'd love to hear from you.

[Get in touch](#) to arrange a call.

Thank you so much for journeying with us as we seek to make a difference within communities by building connection in our churches. If you have any questions or feedback, please do get in touch by emailing info@churchworks.org.uk.

The ChurchWorks Team



Churchworks.org.uk

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